

DCI/IC 74-0555

19 February 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Graham

AT

THROUGH:

SUBJECT: Proposal for Conducting Experiments in
Conferenced Text Editing (CONTEXT)

1. Objective: Conferenced Text Editing has many potential applications because it basically tries to imitate the activities of any group of people who have the task of jointly producing a finished document in a face-to-face conference. The objective of this proposal is to allow that process to take place under conditions where the conferees are remote from each other. The advantages of being able to accomplish remote conferencing by the method proposed here are:

a. The saving of travel time needed to get conferees together.

b. The conferees can remain relatively near their own information materials.

c. The end product would be in a completely edited form which can be automatically printed.

2. Method of Approach: The first step is to create a facility consisting of three normal sized offices in CIA which are each equipped with the basic hardware needed for remote conferenced text editing. This equipment will be connected to a common mini-computer. A secure voice conferencing capability (using speaker phones) will also be included in each office. This facility will be used, first, to test equipment compatibility under conference conditions; second, to test procedures; third, to train the keyboard operators; fourth, to familiarize analysts with the system and procedures and to get their reactions as users.

3. The attached chart shows the layout of the three stations and their equipment (Spkr Ph: speaker phone; CRT: cathode ray tube; Kb: keyboard; Sw: switch; Ptr.: printer). On the left are three CRTs which will display the Record Draft. On the right are the three CRTs which will display the Working Inputs.

4. Procedures (see chart)

- a. Station A (control and chairman) originates or accepts a preliminary draft from Stations B or C, which becomes the tentative Record Draft.
- b. Tentative Record Draft is entered into the computer section I (closing switch) and is displayed on Record CRTs (left, on diagram)
- c. Draft is discussed in voice conference (speaker phones)
- d. Changes to the draft (deletions; word changes; additions or insertion or changes in the order of words, phrases, sentences or paragraphs; error corrections, etc.) are inserted by any station recognized by the chairman. (Physical control of circuit by chairman might become necessary in larger conferences.) Changes will appear on all Working Input CRTs.
- e. Changes are discussed on voice conference.
- f. Changes to Working Inputs can be entered, possibly using split screen techniques, or possibly by storing initial changes.
- g. After voice conference discussion the chairman has final authority to move text from Working Input CRT to Record Draft which is stored in computer section I.
- h. Repeat this process until draft is complete.
- i. After final review (visually and in conference) the chairman will order a printout of final text. (Under operational circumstances all stations might have printout equipment, and possibly tape storage capability.)
- j. The final draft should have margin justification, etc. Maps, charts, etc. might be handled by LDX, FAX or other techniques available using Ops Center channels.

5. Attached is a list of essential equipment, software, people and facilities required to conduct the test.

6. This proposal is essentially outlining the general concept. Much detailed planning would have to be done to bring the test facility into being. There are several options we are currently exploring. The

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IHC Support Staff has surveyed this field and has excellent contractor and community contacts. We would like to task Acting Chairman, IHC and his staff, as well as the [redacted] representative assigned to IC Staff, to provide continuing technical support for this project. An initial report will present data on costs and lead times and the technical options.

7. Application. Conferenced Text Editing (CONTEXT) can be used to create, coordinate, edit and produce documents where the creators are remote from each other. This could include such activities presently performed in the creation of the CIB, weekly Watch Committee Report (when USIB is not in session) and the National Operations and Intelligence Analysts Net (NOIAN) now under consideration.

8. We need to know your reaction to this proposal and, if favorable, what financial resources are available to the IC Staff to pursue the various options.

Signed
[redacted]

Attachment

Three Station Test of Communication System

Approved For Release 2004/05/05 : CIA-RDP80M01082A000700030009-7

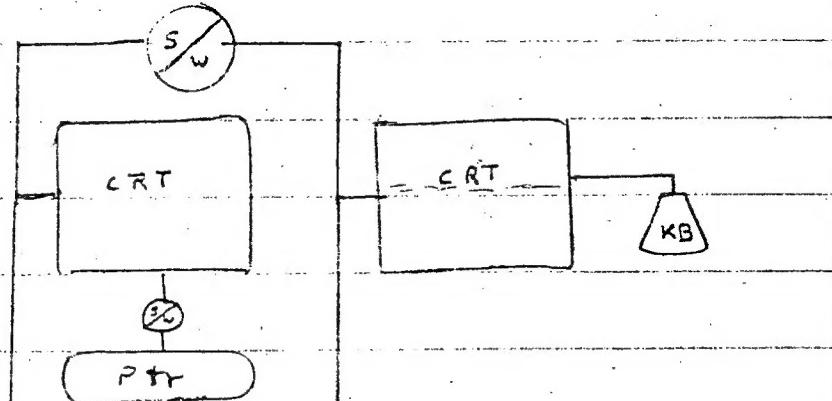
Draft

Inputs

Station A

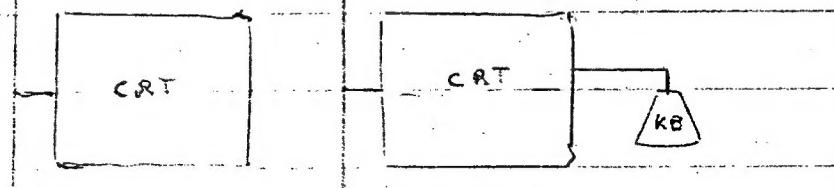
(control)

Spkr
Ph



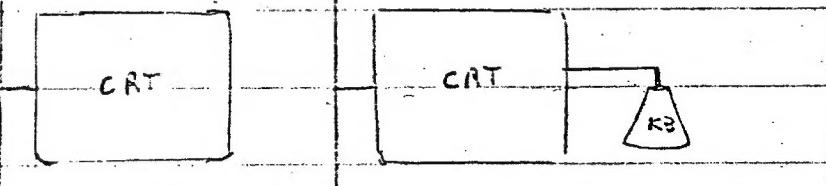
Station B

Spkr
Ph



Station C

Spkr
Ph



Computer
Sec I | Computer
Sec II

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TEST FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

Equipment: 6 CRTs
 3 keyboards (with cursor control)
 3 speaker phones
 2 switches
 1 mini computer (2 stores)
 1 printer (eventually one for each station)

Software: For text editing
 For CRT conference

People: 4 trained operators
 subjects, including analysts
 maintenance

Facilities: 3 offices in CIA, standard equipment
 Special phone circuit - dedicated grey or green
 cables for CRT to computer